Claire Hilsinger

September 15, 2010

EDC 102H

Dr. Fogleman

**Family Life**

Our families are extremely influential in our lives especially when it comes to our education. However, not all families have a good influence on their family members. Fortunately mine did have a good influence on me. My parents taught me to be organized, to study hard, and to never give up. I don’t think I would have been as successful as I was in school without my family.

Ever since kindergarten when I first started school my dad has always taught me to be organized. He would clear off the dining room table to be the homework spot. We each had our own desk calendar, which marked our official homework spot. At the beginning of each week we would write down all of our assignments for the following week so that we would not miss anything. All of our school supplies were labeled from our books to our pencil case. He would even use a label maker. Every day when we got home from school we would empty out our backpacks. We would put all of our books and notebooks on the table in separate piles depending on which class they were for.

My dad would always say, “Organization is the key to success.” He was right, all through high school and even today keeping everything totally organized is the only way I can get anything done. I still write down everything I have to do and label all of my books and notebooks. Without the organization skills my dad taught me I would not have graduated from high school with straight A’s.

The rule in our house was that homework must be done as soon as you get home before you can do anything else. That meant no watching television or playing with your friends until your homework was done. This was really helpful because that way you were completely focused on your work and it was still fresh in your mind because you had just finished school. It was also good motivation because you wanted to sit down and finish your homework so that you could have fun with your friends while it was still light out. This really helped me in high school because I had a lot more work than I did in elementary school and getting it done early was much better than staying up late to finish it. Plus that meant I could do whatever I wanted to do with my friends on the weekends.

The most important thing my family did to influence my education was give me tons of support. When I was young my dad would sit with us while we did our homework so that he could help us whenever we needed it. He was patient and very good at explaining things we did not understand. When I was in high school my mom would edit all of my essays. She is an excellent writer so she was very good at spotting any grammar errors. They encouraged us to always do our best and try our hardest. They never shouted at us if we got a bad grade they would sit us down and go over the things we got wrong.

But they did not just offer support by helping us with our homework. Hey would always offer praise when we deserved it. They would always tell us how great we were doing and to keep up the good work. They never missed a parent teacher conference. They were also at every award ceremony no matter how small. We always knew they were proud of us.

When I graduated from high school last year I looked over and saw them smiling proudly when my name was called. It was the greatest feeling in the world and I could not have done any of it without the love and support my family gave me. It is great to know that your family is always there for you and that they love you. My family was crucial to my successful education from the skills they taught me to the love and support they gave me.